

Announcing a New Way to Access Labor Market Information

(continued from front page)

Create your own personal webpage

The My Site section of our site allows you to create and customize your own personal Montana LMI page. By registering, you'll be able to save data queries that you may want to use again. And they will update automatically when new data is made available without having to go through the data selection process again! You can also save your favorite articles or publications, and you can create a profile of your interests so that we may make articles available to you automatically based on your interest profile. And it's all available in one convenient location!

Labor Market Information

- ◆ Explore and compare local areas and find unemployment rates, Current Employment Statistics (CES data), census data, economic indicators and more.
- ◆ Explore and compare occupations to get employment projections, average wages, supply and demand statistics, licensing requirements, common skills, tasks, short term projections and more.
- ◆ Explore and compare industries to find covered employment statistics, employment projections, unemployment claims data, mass layoff statistics and more.
- ◆ Find a List of Employers in any geographic area, industry, or occupation.

Career Center

- ◆ Find Occupations by Skills. Create a list of skills you have or plan to acquire, then find occupations that match most of your skills.
- ◆ Montana Career Resource Network. Find publications on job hunting, career planning, career activities and videos, information on licensed and apprenticeable occupations in Montana and more.

Data Analysis

- ◆ Current Employment Statistics
- ◆ Industry Employment Projections
- ◆ Occupations by Industry
- ◆ Unemployment Rates and Labor Force Statistics
- ◆ Occupation Employment Projections
- ◆ Wages
- ◆ Population
- ◆ Links to other data sources

These features are just the tip of the iceberg. The most important component of this system is being able to customize your own page to save the information you want to keep, information that you routinely use, and immediate access to the latest data available without having to go looking for it again and again. We appreciate and look forward to your feedback on our website ourfactsyourfuture.org

MAIL OR E-MAIL?

If you would like us to e-mail you a reminder and a link to this publication on our website each month, e-mail us at: mediacontacts4rad@state.mt.us. Please include the following: 1) your mailing address as it appears on this publication and 2) your e-mail address.

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU



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Montana Department of
Labor & Industry
Workforce Services Division
Research & Analysis Bureau

Return in 5 days to:

Announcing a New Way to Access Labor Market Information

The Research and Analysis Bureau has been producing the most extensive Montana labor market data for decades. Back in the pre-computing days, data was printed in publications in table format, great for researchers and data junkies, but difficult for most people to use. As computers entered into the picture, the way data was stored changed from paper to bytes, but we still produced our final reports for distribution in publications.

The advent of the Internet has had one of the most profound effects on how we do business and the expectations of our customers. Years of data can be downloaded and viewed with the simple click of a button. The problem has been how to package this enormous warehouse of data in such a way that researchers, policy-makers, job-seekers and career explorers can find just what they are looking for.

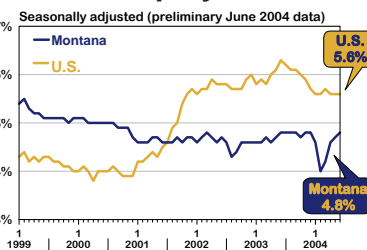
We are happy to announce that the Montana Workforce Informer has solved that problem. This award-winning program is currently being used in 13 other states and is being released in Montana on August 2nd! So, what makes this program so great? Check out the features listed on the back page.

Got Questions?

If you have a specific question you'd like to ask one of the experts in the Research and Analysis Bureau, send it in or e-mail us. Please indicate it's for the "Ask an R&A Expert Column." We'll publish those we can in this monthly publication beginning with the July 2004 issue. We're also interested in hearing feedback on our publications from our customers. Please write or e-mail us with your comments or suggestions. We'd love to hear from you!

MONTANA
Economy
at a Glance

Unemployment

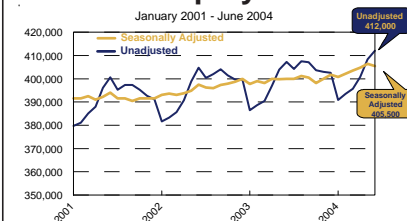


Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's June unemployment rate of 4.8 percent was four-fifths of a percentage point lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for workers in Montana's private sector reached \$425.68 in June, marking an over-the-year increase of 1.6%. Compare this percent change to the 3.3% over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonfarm Employment Series



Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 5,600 jobs (1.4 percent) over the year for June. The largest over-the-year gains were in natural resources and mining; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; and leisure and hospitality services.

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org

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June 2004

Unemployment
by County

Not seasonally adjusted

	June 2004*	June 2003
UNITED STATES	5.8%	6.5%
MONTANA	4.6%	4.6%
Cascade **	4.7%	4.8%
Missoula **	3.8%	3.5%
Yellowstone **	4.1%	3.7%

Beaverhead	3.3%	3.6%
Big Horn	14.3%	16.6%
Blaine	6.0%	5.3%
Broadwater	3.7%	4.6%
Carbon	3.7%	3.3%
Carter	3.3%	2.5%
Chouteau	2.4%	2.2%
Custer	3.5%	2.6%
Daniels	1.6%	1.9%
Dawson	3.4%	2.2%
Deer Lodge	6.8%	5.8%
Fallon	2.6%	2.1%
Fergus	4.7%	4.6%
Flathead	5.4%	5.8%
Gallatin	2.5%	2.5%
Garfield	2.3%	1.8%
Glacier	13.2%	12.4%
Golden Valley	6.5%	7.1%
Granite	6.3%	6.1%
Hill	5.1%	4.6%
Jefferson	4.6%	5.0%
Judith Basin	3.9%	4.1%
Lake	6.2%	6.5%
Lewis & Clark	4.0%	4.1%
Liberty	3.3%	2.9%
Lincoln	13.3%	15.2%
McCone	0.9%	1.3%
Madison	2.7%	3.2%
Meagher	6.2%	4.5%
Mineral	7.2%	8.2%
Musselshell	6.8%	6.1%
Park	3.7%	3.7%
Petroleum	3.3%	3.6%
Phillips	3.9%	4.3%
Pondera	6.7%	6.2%
Powder River	3.0%	1.4%
Powell	6.1%	6.5%
Prairie	3.4%	1.8%
Ravalli	4.5%	4.6%
Richland	3.7%	5.1%
Roosevelt	10.7%	8.7%
Rosebud	5.6%	6.7%
Sanders	7.2%	7.5%
Sheridan	2.7%	3.1%
Silver Bow	5.4%	5.0%
Stillwater	3.5%	3.4%
Sweet Grass	2.8%	2.4%
Teton	3.3%	3.3%
Toole	2.3%	3.3%
Treasure	6.2%	3.0%
Valley	3.6%	3.6%
Wheatland	3.5%	3.5%
Wibaux	2.0%	3.1%

*June 2004 rate preliminary
** Cascade=Great Falls MSA
Missoula=Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

Montana Economy at a Glance

Spotlight on Occupational Injury and Illness Rates

How Safe is Your Industry?

by Peggy Coggeshall, Research Specialist III

Have you ever wondered what the rate of injury is in your industry? How can employers use this information to benefit their businesses?

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illness is mailed and shows up on the desks of employers across the state the third week of January each year. The survey originated from requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Public Law 91-596 section 24 A states, "To further the purposes of the act, the Secretary shall develop and maintain an effective program of collection, compilation and analysis of occupational safety and health statistics." This allows agencies the authority to track work-related injuries and illness across the nation. Montana has worked cooperatively with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for more than 20 years gathering this information and publishing it yearly.

On an annual basis, about 4,000 Montana employers are surveyed. The survey asks for their employment average, the hours worked for the year, and if they had any occupational injuries or illnesses. Employers are then asked details about the injury or illness and from that data incidence rates are calculated.

Incidence rates for an individual establishment or firm may be calculated by using the same formula that is used to calculate industry wide rates from the annual Occupational Injury and Illness Survey. The formula requires: (a) the number of injuries and illnesses; and (b) the total number of hours actually worked by all employees during the reference period. The reference period is usually the calendar year. The formula for computing the incidence rates for an individual establishment is as follows:

$$(N/EH) \times 200,000$$

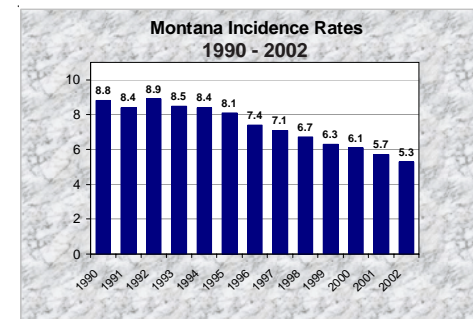
N = number of injuries and/or illnesses or lost workdays
EH = total hours worked by all employees during calendar year
200,000 = base for 100 full-time equivalent workers working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year

An employer may compute the incidence rate for injuries only, illnesses only, lost work cases and nonfatal cases with lost workdays. Simply replace the number of injuries and illnesses in the numerator with the measure with which the rate is being computed.

For employers, the incidence rate figures presented annually are more meaningful when viewed against their own firm's experience. A comparison can be made between a single firm and industry to which the firm belongs. For example, an employer engaged in the manufacture of metal stampings (SIC 3469) can see his company compared with other manufacturers in Montana by calculating his total case rate and comparing it to the incidence rates for that year. Similarly, a general contractor of residential buildings (SIC 152) can relate the company's time loss case experience to other construction firms in Montana. A restaurant owner (SIC 5812) can calculate an incidence rate and compare themselves to others. See the following example:

A restaurant owner has 23 employees, of which 18 are full-time and 5 are part-time employees who work 25 hours a week. The full-time employees work 50 weeks a year and the part-time work 52 weeks a year. Last year there were 3 related work injuries.

With the calculations of 3 injuries and a total of 42,500 hours worked by all employees, the incidence rate for this establishment is 14.1 injuries and illnesses per 100 workers. This is much higher than the incidence rate of 7.2 injuries and



illnesses per 100 workers in retail trade, reported in Montana in 2002 and the national rate of 5.3.

This comparison shows that the restaurant owner may benefit from implementing a safety program or training employees on injury prevention.

Additional questions regarding case rates, their calculation, or use may be answered by contacting the Research and Analysis Bureau, Occupational Safety and Health Statistics Program, Montana Department of Labor and Industry at (800) 541-3904.

Introducing Todd Younkin, R&A's New Bureau Chief

The Research & Analysis Bureau is pleased to welcome our new Bureau Chief, Todd Younkin. Todd comes to us from Montana's Legislative Fiscal Division, where he provided analysis and information to all legislators, staffing appropriations subcommittees and other committees during legislative sessions. Originally from Nebraska, Todd grew up on a ranch near Seneca, a town of about 90 people.



He also boasts a military background, having graduated from the Air Force Academy, and having worked as a Missile Launch Officer at Ellsworth Airforce Base (AFB) in South Dakota, and as a Finance and Budget Flight Chief at Ellsworth AFB, Langley AFB in Virginia, and at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls. He has also been known to dabble in mountain bike racing, saddle bronc riding, and (admittedly poor) guitar playing.